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(54) IMAGE FORMING METHOD

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To improve developability and to enable low-potential development and to improve durability performance as well by lowering the carrier resistance.

CONSTITUTION: A developer consisting of a toner satisfying condition equations 0.9≤X≤1.0, 0.8≤Y≤1.0 in a change X of an amt. of a release agent and a change Y of an amt. of external additives and a resin coating carrier having an amt. of surface fluorine of 6 to 25number% is formulated to X=(the melting heat occurring in the release agent of the recycled toner)/(the melting heat occurring in the release agent of the new toner) Y=(the amt. of the surface additives of the recycled toner)/(the amt. of the surface additives of the new toner).

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] When making change X of the amount of release agents of a toner into X=(heat of fusion resulting from release agent of recycle toner)/(heat of fusion resulting from the release agent of a new toner) in the image formation approach which adopted the toner recycle system, When filling 0.9<=X<=1.0 and making change Y of the amount of external additives of a toner into Y=(amount of surface external additives of recycle toner)/(the amount of surface external additives of a new toner), The image formation approach characterized by using the toner which fills 0.8<=Y<=1.0, and the developer with which the amount of surface fluorines of a resin coating carrier consists of 6-25piece a carrier which is several %.

[Claim 2] The image formation approach characterized by for the kneading temperature of a toner constituent being the temperature which is not less than Tm-40 degree C, using a high-speed churning mold mixer for the mixed process of a toner and an external additive, and controlling the filling factor below by the melting point (Tm) of a release agent to 75 - 90% in the image formation approach according to claim 1.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to the image formation approach which adopted especially the recycle system of a toner about the image formation approach which develops an electrostatic latent image with a toner and forms an image.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] For example, in a xerography, an electrostatic latent image is usually formed in the electrostatic latent-image support which consists of a photoconductivity photo conductor by electrification and exposure, with the toner which is made to contain a coloring agent etc. and, subsequently to the inside of binder resin, comes to form this electrostatic latent image in the shape of a particle, negatives are developed, the obtained toner image is imprinted to base materials, such as a transfer paper, it is established, and a visible image is formed. On the other hand, the photo conductor after an imprint is discharged, and after the toner which remained on the photo conductor, without subsequently imprinting is cleaned, the next image formation is presented with it. Thus, in order to obtain a visible image, it is required to establish a toner image, in the former, thermal efficiency is high, and the hot calender roll fixation method in which high-speed fixation is possible is adopted widely.

[0003] The image formation approach which returns again the toner (this toner is called a recycle toner below) collected by cleaning to a development counter, and reuses this on the other hand from a viewpoint which uses a toner economically and which adopted the so-called recycle system of a toner is capturing the spotlight. The following properties are required in the toner applied to this recycle system.

[0004] A toner should not produce deformation and crushing according to the shearing force received in a cleaning process and the toner conveyance process (recycle process) to a development counter.

[0005] Change of the surface state of a toner is small.

[0006] then, the image formation approach which adopted the toner recycle system as (1) JP,2-110572,A that it should respond to such a request -- setting -- the metal bridge formation styrene-acrylic copolymer resin, polyolefine, a fatty-acid amide or fatty acid ester, and a hydrophobic inorganic particle -- containing -- more than the polyolefine 5 weight section -- the ratio of the fatty-acid amide ester content rate A and the polyolefine content rate B -- the approach [A/B] using one or more developers is proposed.

[0007] Although various things are proposed as the mixed approach of an external additive, the approach of making (2) JP,2-157027,A pass the impact section which has the 0.5-30mm shortest gap formed from a revolution piece and a fixed piece under conditions of 10-90 degrees C of ambient temperature, and the impact section which has the 0.5-30mm shortest gap formed from two sorts of revolution pieces, and mixing a coloring particle and an additive is proposed. Moreover, the manufacture approach which mixes a finishing agent with a toner particle with 40 degrees C or less and 20 or more m/sec of shear peripheral speed of a mixer is proposed by (3) JP,4-328579,A in toner temperature. [0008] It is well-known to use a fluororesin as carrier covering material as an another side carrier particle, and the thing using the magnetic-substance distributed carrier which specified the abundance of the specific atom on the front face of a carrier is proposed. for example, (4) JP,2-17109,B -- a carrier core material front face -- the monomer of a general formula (trifluoromethyl methacrylate) -- more than 50wt% -- the carrier which covers the constituent containing the polymer or this polymer of molecular weight and limiting viscosity 0.01-2.0 obtained from the monomer mixture to contain is proposed.

[0009] Moreover, the approach using the carrier which made abundance of the fluorine atom in all the atoms on the front face of a carrier 6 - 30atomic% is proposed by (5) JP,3-1164,A.
[0010]

- [Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, although it became that a non-subtlety particle adheres to a toner firmly by selection of a release agent kind with the technique of the above (1) given in an official report, and it is hard to be pushed in, it did not come to prevent lowering of the amount of toner electrifications, and was not able to avoid as a carrier that had to use the high fluororesin of the substitutional rate of a fluorine element, the surface resistivity of a carrier particle became high, and development nature got worse.
- [0011] If the above (2) and the official report written technique of (3) are applied to a toner recycle system, balking from the toner front face of the additive on a toner and a finishing agent will invite generating and the amount lowering of electrifications, and will not bear a long-term activity.
- [0012] In order to apply the official report written technique of the above (4) to a toner recycle system, the release agent on a toner front face cannot control change and change of an external additive only by the carrier technique given [this] in a patent, and does not bear the activity as a developer with it.
- [0013] Moreover, with the official report written technique of (5), when it was going to apply the magnetic-substance distributed carrier to the toner recycle system, there was a fault to which the endurance ability as a developer becomes [a recycle toner] being easy to adhere to a carrier brief.
- [0014] Wholeheartedly, as a result of examination, by maintaining change of the amount of release agents of a recycle toner particle, and the amount of external additives at the minimum range in a toner recycle system, this invention person etc. could limit the amount of surface fluorines of a carrier particle to the proper range, could lower carrier surface resistivity, found out that low voltage development could be attained, and completed this invention.
- [0015] The place which this invention is proposed based on the above situation, and is made into the object is to offer the developer which is excellent in development nature in the image formation approach which adopted the toner recycle system, and is excellent in low voltage development, and has high endurance ability.
- [0016] Since the toner concerned minimized change of the release agent component on the front face of a toner, and an external additive (flow improver) component, balking from the toner front face of a release agent does not carry out raw [of the big stress by the cleaning process, a recycle process, etc.] at a carrier beam case, but there is no aggravation of fixing roller dirt, flasking into the toner of an external additive and desorption from a toner front face do not arise, and the electrification engine performance of the toner itself always does not change. For the reason, the amount of lowering fluororesins can be reduced for the electrification grant capacity of a carrier surface coating ingredient, it becomes possible to lower carrier resistance as a result, and the development in low voltage is attained.
- [Means for Solving the Problem] The aforementioned object is attained by the following means.
- [0018] (1) In the image formation approach which adopted the toner recycle system When making change X of the amount of release agents of a toner into X=(heat of fusion resulting from release agent of recycle toner)/(heat of fusion resulting from the release agent of a new toner), When filling 0.9 <= X <= 1.0 and making change Y of the amount of external additives of a toner into Y=(amount of surface external additives of recycle toner)/(the amount of surface external additives of a new toner), The image formation approach characterized by using the toner which fills 0.8 <= Y <= 1.0, and the developer with which the amount of surface fluorines of a resin coating carrier consists of 6-25-piece a carrier which is several %.
- [0019] (2) The image formation approach characterized by for the kneading temperature of a toner constituent being the temperature which is not less than Tm-40 degree C, using a high-speed churning mold mixer for the mixed process of a toner and an external additive, and controlling the filling factor below by the melting point (Tm) of a release agent to 75 90% in the image formation approach given in (1).
- [0020] The image formation approach of this invention specified the range of the proper abundance in the release agent content of a recycle toner, the amount of external additives, and the amount of fluorine elements on the front face of a carrier based on the following measuring method in the toner particle which contains other additives binding resin, a coloring agent, a release agent, and if needed at J/g and number % of pieces which is each system of units.
- [0021] In this invention, the heat of fusion was computed from the area which is measured by DSC-7 (PerkinElmer, Inc. make), specifically heats 5mg of samples with a fixed programming rate (10degree C/min.) according to a differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), and is surrounded at the base line and an endoergic peak.
- [0022] In this invention, the external additive abundance on a toner particle front face and the fluorine abundance on a carrier front face are measured using ESCA1000 (Shimadzu make). It cuts by rubbing and comes out of a toner and a carrier to a sample pan (depth a diameter of 1cm of 2mm) by the X-ray (MgKalpha) output of 10.0kV, and 20.0mA. quantum count of a surface component -- carbon: -- C1s and oxygen:O1s, nitrogen:N1s and fluorine:F1s, the peak of zirconium:Zr3d3/[silicon:Si2p, titanium:Ti2p3/2, and aluminum:aluminum2p and] 2 or 3d5 / 2 grades was used, and each amount was calculated from the peak side. These peak areas were used, amendment by sensitivity was performed

as amendment on the strength by each element, and it considered as the intensity ratio. [0023]

[Function] Hereafter, this invention is explained to a detail.

[0024] By the image formation approach of this invention, it can be equal to the activity of a repeat, without a release agent and an external additive being omitted from a toner front face in the development counter which has a toner recycle system, in order that a release agent and an external additive may hardly receive change on a toner front face. When the change X of the amount of toner release agents (however, it considers as X=(heat of fusion resulting from release agent of recycle toner)/(heat of fusion resulting from the release agent of a new toner)) is less than 0.9, the amount of release agents on the front face of a toner decreases, the fixation engine performance gets worse, and a long-term activity is not borne. On the other hand, when the change Y of the amount of toner external additives (however, it considers as Y=(amount of surface external additives of recycle toner)/(the amount of surface external additives of a new toner)) is less than 0.8, the amount lowering of electrifications occurs and the activity over a long period of time is not borne too.

[0025] A toner recycle system is adopted as the image formation approach used for this invention, and an image is formed. That is, the toners which remained on the photo conductor, without imprinting are collected in the cleaning section, again, it reaches or a development counter and the system which returns to a toner makeup box and carries out a reuse are pointed out for this collected toner.

[0026] Drawing 1 shows an example of the image formation approach applicable to the image formation approach of this invention. It has the rotating-drum-like gestalt, 7 is a photo conductor and its organic photo conductor is [this photo conductor 7 has an organic photo conductor, a metal photo conductor, the so-called Se-Te, and desirable As2Se3, and] especially desirable from a viewpoint of easy disposability. Around the photo conductor, the electrification machine 1, the exposure optical system 2, the development counter 3, the imprint machine 5, the eliminator 6, and the cleaning machine 8 are arranged in order toward the downstream from the hand-of-cut upstream. 10 is a fixing assembly. [0027] In this image formation equipment, the front face of a photo conductor 7 is charged in uniform potential with the electrification vessel 1, subsequently the exposure optical system 2 is image Mr. exposed, and an electrostatic latent image is formed in the front face of a photo conductor 7. And by the developer which consists of the toner and carrier of the specification mentioned later which were held in the development counter 3, the above-mentioned electrostatic latent image is developed and a toner image is formed. Electrostatic image transfer of this toner image is carried out to the record material P with the imprint vessel 5, heating fixation is carried out by the heat roller fixing assembly 10, and a fixation image is formed. On the other hand, a residual toner is cleaned with the cleaning vessel 8, and formation of the following image is presented with the photo conductor 7 which passed the imprint machine 5. The toner furthermore collected by the cleaning machine reaches development counter 3 again with the toner recycle system mentioned later, or is returned to the toner makeup box 11, and a reuse is presented with it.

[0028] The example of a toner recycle system is shown in drawing 2 and 3. this example -- setting -- 12 -- a development counter and 13 -- for a cleaning machine and 16, the toner conveyance screws 1 and 17 are [a development sleeve and 14 / a photo conductor and 15 / the toner conveyance screws 3 and 20 of the toner conveyance screws 2 and 18] toner makeup boxes. The equipment of this example conveys the toner collected in the sequential cleaning section on the toner conveyance screws 1, 2, and 3, and supplies it to the distributor 19 (a new toner feed hopper is another object) only for [this] recovery toners provided in a development counter. That is, it comes to have the wing prepared in the interior in the shape of a spiral in accordance with a revolving shaft and this revolving shaft, respectively, sequential conveyance of the toner is carried out by the wing with a revolution of a revolving shaft, the toner conveyance screw 3 of the toner conveyance screws 2 and 18 of the toner conveyance screws 1 and 17 of 16 is supplied to a distributor 19, and the latent-image development on a photo conductor 14 is again presented with the collected toner.

[0029] on the other hand -- 12- of <u>drawing 3</u> -- 18 and 20 are the same as that of <u>drawing 2</u>, with the equipment of this example, convey the toner collected in the sequential cleaning section on the toner conveyance screws 1, 2, and 3, and supply it to a toner makeup box. After the difference with <u>drawing 2</u> of this example carries out churning mixing of a new toner and the collected recycle toner beforehand in a toner makeup box, the description has it in the place supplied to a development counter.

[0030] In the image formation approach of providing the toner recycle system which mentioned above the toner used for this invention The change X of the amount of toner release agents (it considers as X=(heat of fusion resulting from release agent of recycle toner)/(heat of fusion resulting from the release agent of a new toner)) fills 0.9<=X<=1.0. And the change Y of the amount of surface external additives of a toner (it considers as Y=(amount of surface external additives of a new toner)) makes it indispensable to fill

 $0.8 \le Y \le 1.0$.

[0031] Although definition is not received especially as toner binder resin used for this invention, polyester resin, styrene-acrylic ester system resin, styrene-methacrylic acid ester system resin, styrene-butadiene system resin, styrene-acrylic-initial resin, styrene-acrylic-crystallinity polyester graft resin, polyurethane resin, an epoxy resin, silicone resin, a polyvinyl chloride, a polyamide, a polyvinyl butyral, rosin, denaturation rosin, phenol resin, xylene resin, etc. are mentioned, for example.

[0032] Toner parent particle (an external additive is not included.) Components other than binder resin, such as a coloring agent, an electrification control agent, a release agent, and the magnetic substance, are contained in the inside called a coloring particle below if needed. Although especially an addition is not limited, one to its 50 sections are respectively desirable.

[0033] As a coloring agent, carbon black, the Nigrosine color, the aniline bule, KARUKO oil blue, chrome yellow, E. I. du Pont de Nemours oil red, quinoline yellow, a copper phthalocyanine blue, malachite green oxalate, a rose bengal, etc. can use such mixture.

[0034] As an electrification control agent, the Nigrosine system color, a quarternary-ammonium-salt compound, an alkyl pyridinium compound, etc. can be used.

[0035] As a release agent, a 100 to 140 degrees C thing has the desirable melting point. Number average molecular weight (this number average molecular weight shows the polystyrene molecular-weight reduced property in an elevated temperature GPC) Moreover, the low molecular weight polyethylene of 1500-5000, Polyolefine waxes, such as low molecular weight polypropylene and a low-molecular-weight-polyethylene-polypropylene copolymer, For example, high-melting paraffin wax, such as micro wax and the Fischer Tropsch wax, For example, ester system waxes, such as fatty-acid lower alcohol ester, fatty-acid higher-alcohol ester, and fatty-acid polyhydric-alcohol ester, an amide system wax, etc. can be used.

[0036] Although the compound containing the metal in which the ferromagnetism of iron including a ferrite and magnetite, cobalt, nickel, etc. is shown as the magnetic substance, alloys, or these elements, or a ferromagnetic element is not included, the alloy called the Heusler alloy containing manganese and copper, such as the alloy in which ferromagnetism is shown, for example, manganese-copper-aluminum, and manganese-copper-tin, can be mentioned by performing suitable heat treatment.

[0037] Furthermore, these toner constituents are mixed, non-subtlety particles (toner external additive), such as a silica and titanium oxide, are added from melting kneading, grinding, and a viewpoint that classifies and improves a toner fluidity, and a toner particle is obtained eventually.

[0038] The release agent component from which this invention persons are trained by binder binding resin at a melting kneading process as a result of wholeheartedly examination found out that it was hard to secede from a toner front face by controlling the conditions of this kneading process. That is, as a factor of kneading conditions, the temperature of a kneading-among kneading machine zone, the mixing intensity in a kneading zone, etc. are mentioned. If kneading temperature exceeds Tm to the melting point (Tm) of a release agent, the melt viscosity of a release agent will fall too much extremely, and, as a result, the diameter of distribution of a release agent will become small. On the other hand, if it kneads at the temperature which is less than Tm-40 degree C, homogeneity will not scour in binder resin, without a release agent fusing, but, as a result, the diameter of distribution of a release agent will become an ununiformity. [0039] If the fluidity of a toner is improvable as an external additive, any are sufficient and particles, such as a hydrophilic silica, a hydrophobic silica, an alumina, titanium oxide, barium titanate, titanic-acid magnesium, titanic-acid calcium, strontium titanate, a zinc oxide, chromic oxide, cerium oxide, an antimony trioxide, and a zirconium dioxide, can be mentioned. It is desirable that it is the secondary external additive which has the effectiveness which furthermore grinds moderately a photo conductor and a carrier particle front face, and does not produce degradation of a photo conductor and a developer and which forms the 3rd floc. The silica processed by amino denaturation silicone oil as the example concerned, and the ORGANO siloxane and the hydrophobic silica processed by 3-aminopropyl triethoxysilane can be mentioned.

[0040] Although an external additive is made to adhere to a toner front face by the distributed approach on the front face of a toner of an external additive putting a moving vane into the interior, putting a toner constituent and a toner external additive into one sort or the high-speed churning mold mixer which it has two sorts, and agitating at high speed this invention persons found out wholeheartedly that an external additive could not secede from a toner front face easily by controlling the color particle in the inside of a high-speed churning mold mixer, and the filling factor of an external additive to 75 - 90% in this mixed process as a result of examination. It is defined as a filling factor by the following formulas here.

[0041] Filling factor =(color particle + external additive particle) (mass / coloring agent *******) / high-speed

churning mold mixer capacity x100[%]

As a high-speed churning mold mixer, well-known mixers, such as a Henschel mixer (made in Mitsui Miike), LMA5 mold (the Nara machine company make), and VG25 mold (Fuji industrial company make), can be used. [0042] The fluorine system resin of low surface energy is widely used from a viewpoint of physical adhesion force and carrier surface contamination prevention as resin for carrier coatings. Specifically, a copolymer with fluorine-containing ****** which has the radical which comes to permute a fluorine atom by polytetrafluoroethylene, tetrafluoroethylene / 6 fluoride ethylene copolymer, Pori 3 fluoride-salt-ized ethylene, polyvinylidene fluoride, tetrafluoroethylene / perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether copolymer, the vinylidene fluoride-tetrafluoroethylene copolymer, and the side chain and styrene, and a vinyl polymerization object etc. can be used as this fluororesin. A 1, 1, 3-trihydro perfluoro-n-propylacrylate and 1, and 1-dihydroperfluoro-n-propylacrylate copolymer, 1, and 1-dihydroperfluoro ethyl acrylate polymer, 2 and 2, and 2-trifluoroethylmethacrylate polymer are desirable also especially in said fluorine-containing resin.

[0043]

[Example] Hereafter, although an example and the example of a comparison explain this invention further, this invention is not limited at all by these examples. In addition, the "section" expresses the weight section. [0044] (Example 1)

Binding resin; Polyester resin The 100 sections Coloring agent; Carbon black The eight sections Release agent; Low molecular weight polypropylene (melting point of 140 degrees C) The ingredient of the 4 or more sections was mixed with the Henschel mixer, kneading and a kneading object were pulverized with the mechanical-cable-type grinder after coarse grinding at the kneading section temperature of 110 degrees C using the biaxial extruder (extruder), it classified with the pneumatic elutriation machine, and the coloring particle A with a volume mean particle diameter of 10 micrometers was obtained. As the 1.0 sections, in addition a Henschel mixer made 85% of filling factors, mixed processing of the hydrophobic silica which processed the front face by the ORGANO siloxane and 3-aminopropyl triethoxysilane to the coloring particle A100 obtained section was carried out, and Toner A was obtained. The amount of surface silicas which depends on ESCA of this toner A was several 7.0%, and the heat of fusion was 0.80 J/g. [0045] The carrier A covered with the resin which consists of a copolymer (copolymerization ratio 20:80 weight section) of 2, 2, and 2-trifluoroethylmethacrylate and styrene as a carrier on the other hand was used. In the surface analysis which depends on ESCA of this carrier, that amount of surface fluorines was several 8%. [0046] On-the-spot photo assessment was performed using electrophotography copying machine U-BIX 3035 by Konica [Corp.] Corp. converted so that it might have the device (refer to drawing 3) in which the developer which consists of this Toner A and Carrier A is returned to a recycle toner in a toner makeup box. [0047] The quantum of ejection, its heat of fusion, and the amount of surface silicas was performed for a part of recycle toner collected by the cleaning machine. Consequently, the heat of fusion was set to X= 0.94 by 0.75 J/g, and the amount of surface silicas was set to Y = 0.88 at several 6.2%. Furthermore, even if it continued on-the-spot photo

[0048] (Example 2)

did not have after 30,000 copies.

Binding resin; Styrene-acrylic ionomer resin The 100 sections Coloring agent; Carbon black The ten sections Release agent; Polyolefine wax (melting point of 100 degrees C) The ingredient of the 4 or more sections was mixed with the Henschel mixer, it kneaded at the kneading section temperature of 110 degrees C using the biaxial extruder (extruder), the kneading object was pulverized with the mechanical-cable-type grinder after coarse grinding, it classified with the pneumatic elutriation machine, and the coloring particle B with a volume mean particle diameter of 9 micrometers was obtained. As the filling factor became 75% with the 0.8 sections, in addition a Henschel mixer, mixed processing of the hydrophobic silica which processed the front face by amino denaturation silicone oil to the coloring particle B100 obtained section was carried out, and Toner B was obtained. The amount of surface silicas of this toner B was several 5.0%, and the heat of fusion was 1.05 J/g.

assessment, there is no big fluctuation to these values, and it did not generate generating of fogging, and poor fixation. The concentration of the obtained image maintained 1.3 or more from the start with relative concentration, and change

[0049] The carrier B covered with the resin which consists of a copolymer (copolymerization ratio 60:40 weight section) of 2, 2, and 2-trifluoroethylmethacrylate and methyl methacrylate as a carrier on the other hand was used. In the surface analysis which depends on ESCA of this carrier, that amount of surface fluorines was several 20%.
[0050] On-the-spot photo assessment was performed using electrophotography copying machine U-BIX X2125 by Konica [Corp.] Corp. converted so that it might have the device (refer to drawing 2) in which the toner which had the developer which consists of this Toner B and Carrier B cleaned is directly returned to a development counter.
[0051] A part of toner collected by the cleaning machine was taken out, and the quantum of the heat of fusion and the

amount of surface silicas was performed. Consequently, 0.95J [g]/, X=0.90, and the amount of surface silicas of the heat of fusion were Y=0.94 several 4.7%. Furthermore, even if it continued on-the-spot photo assessment, there is no big fluctuation to these values, and it did not generate generating of fogging, and poor fixation. The concentration of the obtained image maintained 1.3 or more from the start with relative concentration, and change did not have after 30,000 copies.

[0052] (Example 3)

binding resin; -- styrene-acrylic-polyester blend resin; -- low molecular weight polypropylene [] (melting point of 130 degrees C) -- the ingredient of the 3 or more sections was mixed with the Henschel mixer, it kneaded at the kneading section temperature of 125 degrees C using the biaxial extruder (extruder), the kneading object was pulverized with the mechanical-cable-type grinder after coarse grinding, it classified with the pneumatic elutriation machine, and the coloring particle C with a volume mean particle diameter of 9 micrometers was obtained. The 100 sections Coloring agent; Carbon black The ten sections Release agent As the filling factor became 88% with the 1.2 sections, in addition a Henschel mixer, mixed processing of the hydrophobic silica which processed the front face by the ORGANO siloxane and 3-aminopropyl triethoxysilane to the coloring particle C100 obtained section was carried out, and Toner C was obtained. The amount of surface silicas of this toner C was several 8.5%, and the heat of fusion was 0.75 J/g. [0053] The carrier C covered with the resin which consists of a copolymer (copolymerization ratio 50:50) of 1 and 1-dihydroperfluoro ethyl acrylate and methyl methacrylate as a carrier on the other hand was used. In the surface analysis which depends on ESCA of this carrier, that amount of surface fluorines was several 17%.

[0054] On-the-spot photo assessment was performed using electrophotography copying machine U-BIX1520 by Konica [Corp.] Corp. which has the device in which the toner which had the developer which consists of this Toner C and Carrier C cleaned is returned to a toner makeup box.

[0055] A part of recycle toner collected by the cleaning machine was taken out, and the quantum of the heat of fusion and the amount of surface silicas was performed. Consequently, 0.70J [g]/, X=0.93, and the amount of surface silicas of the heat of fusion were Y=0.82 several 7.0%. Furthermore, even if it continued on-the-spot photo assessment, there is no big fluctuation to these values, and it did not generate generating of fogging, and poor fixation. The concentration of the obtained image maintained 1.3 or more from the start with relative concentration, and change did not have after 30,000 copies.

[0056] (Example 1 of a comparison)

Binding resin; Styrene-acrylic ionomer resin The 100 sections Coloring agent; Carbon black The ten sections Release agent; Polyolefine wax (melting point of 100 degrees C) The ingredient of the 4 or more sections was mixed with the Henschel mixer, it kneaded at the kneading section temperature of 150 degrees C using the biaxial extruder (extruder), the kneading object was pulverized with the mechanical-cable-type grinder after coarse grinding, it classified with the pneumatic elutriation machine, and the coloring particle D with a volume mean particle diameter of 10 micrometers was obtained. As the filling factor became 78% with the 0.8 sections, in addition a Henschel mixer, mixed processing of the hydrophobic silica which processed the front face by amino denaturation silicone oil to the coloring particle D100 obtained section was carried out, and Toner D was obtained. The amount of surface silicas of this toner D was several 5.0%, and the heat of fusion was 1.25 J/g.

[0057] The carrier B covered with the resin which consists of a copolymer (copolymerization ratio 60:40 weight section) of 2, 2, and 2-trifluoroethylmethacrylate and methyl methacrylate as a carrier on the other hand was used. In the surface analysis which depends on ESCA of this carrier, that amount of surface fluorines was several 20%.

[0058] On-the-spot photo assessment was performed using electrophotography copying machine U-BIX1520 by Konica [Corp.] Corp. which has the device in which the toner which had the developer which consists of this Toner D and Carrier B cleaned is returned to a toner makeup box.

[0059] A part of recycle toner collected by the cleaning machine was taken out, and the quantum of the heat of fusion and the amount of surface silicas was performed. Consequently, 1.02J [g]/, X= 0.82, and the amount of surface silicas of the heat of fusion were Y= 0.94 several 4.7%. The amount of recycle toners occurs after the 3000 copies by which poor fixation is considered to become a stationary, and the concentration of the image obtained came to be less than 1.1 in relative concentration.

[0060] (Example 2 of a comparison)

Binding resin; Polyester resin The 100 sections Coloring agent; Carbon black The ten sections Release agent; Low molecular weight polypropylene (melting point of 130 degrees C) The ingredient of the 3 or more sections was mixed with the Henschel mixer, it kneaded at the kneading section temperature of 120 degrees C using the biaxial extruder (extruder), the kneading object was pulverized with the mechanical-cable-type grinder after coarse grinding, it classified with the pneumatic elutriation machine, and the coloring particle E with a volume mean particle diameter of 8.5

micrometers was obtained. As the filling factor became 60% with the 1.0 sections, in addition a Henschel mixer, mixed processing of the hydrophobic silica which processed the front face by the ORGANO siloxane and 3-aminopropyl triethoxysilane to the coloring particle E100 obtained section was carried out, and Toner E was obtained. The amount of surface silicas of this toner E was several 7.0%, and the heat of fusion was 0.97 J/g.

[0061] The carrier D covered with the resin which consists of a copolymer (copolymerization ratio 35:65 weight section) of TORIFURORO ethylene and styrene as a carrier on the other hand was used. In the surface analysis which depends on ESCA of this carrier, that amount of surface fluorines was several 10%.

[0062] On-the-spot photo assessment was performed using electrophotography copying machine U-BIX 3035 by Konica [Corp.] Corp. which has the device in which the toner which had the developer which consists of this Toner E and Carrier D cleaned is returned to a toner makeup box and which carried out appearance modification.

[0063] A part of recycle toner collected by the cleaning machine was taken out, and the quantum of the heat of fusion and the amount of surface silicas was performed. Consequently, 0.90J [g]/, X= 0.93, and the amount of surface silicas of the heat of fusion were Y= 0.46 several 3.2%. Furthermore, when on-the-spot photo assessment was continued, after 5000 copies, lowering of the amount of toner electrifications became intense, toner scattering occurred, and the inside of a copying machine was polluted.

[0064] (Example 3 of a comparison) On-the-spot photo assessment was performed using electrophotography copying machine U-BIX 1520 by Konica [Corp.] Corp. which has the device in which the toner which had the developer which consists of a carrier E (the amount of surface fluorines by ESCA is several 33%) covered with the toner particle A indicated in the example 1 and 2, 2, and 2-trifluoroethylmethacrylate polymer resin cleaned is returned to a toner makeup box.

[0065] A part of recycle toner collected by the cleaning machine was taken out, and the quantum of the heat of fusion and the amount of surface silicas was performed. Consequently, 0.73J [g]/, X=0.91, and the amount of surface silicas of the heat of fusion were Y=0.83 several 5.8%. However, a start to development nature was bad and image concentration was 1.0 or less.

[0066] (Examples 4-9 of a comparison) In the conditions of an example 1, the manufacture conditions of a toner and a carrier were controlled and the developer like the following table was produced. The result of having performed the same performance evaluation as an example 1 using this is shown in a table 1.

[0067]

[A table 1]

		Y	表面フッ素量	最高濃度		
	X		(個数%)	テスト初期	3万コピー後	
実施例 1 比較例 4 比較例 5 比較例 6 比較例 7	0. 94 0. 85 0. 70 0. 95 0. 95	0. 88 0. 90 0. 90 0. 74 0. 65	8 10 10 10	1.3以上 1.25 1.25 1.30 1.25	1.3 以上 1.10 1.05 1.15 1.05	
比較例8	0.94 0.94	0. 90 0. 88	31	1. 00 0. 94	1.00以下 0.90	
, and						

[0068]

[Effect of the Invention] Since change of the amount of release agents of a toner is small and the maintenance engine performance of an external additive also has it, toner front-face nature is held, and it is hard to produce the attachment phenomenon to an external additive and the carrier of toner binder resin. [good] Therefore, the amount of fluororesins on the front face of a carrier can be reduced, carrier resistance is reduced, an improvement and low voltage development are attained, development nature is doubled, and endurance ability also improves.

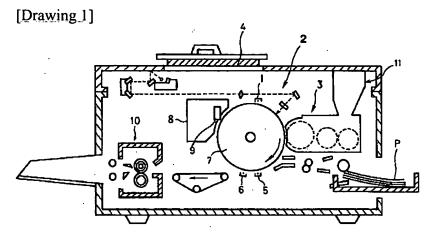
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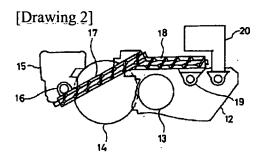
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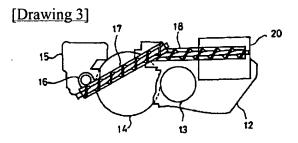
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DRAWINGS







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(72)Inventor: NAGASE TATSUYA

AKIMOTO KUNIO UCHIDA TAKESHI

(54) IMAGE FORMING METHOD

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To improve developability and to enable low-potential development and to improve durability performance as well by lowering the carrier resistance.

CONSTITUTION: A developer consisting of a toner satisfying condition equations 0.9 X 1.0, 0.8 Y 1.0 in a change X of an amt. of a release agent and a change Y of an amt. of external additives and a resin coating carrier having an amt. of surface fluorine of 6 to 25number% is formulated to X=(the melting heat occurring in the release agent of the recycled toner)/(the melting heat occurring in the release agent of the new toner) Y=(the amt. of the surface additives of the recycled toner)/(the amt. of the surface additives of the new toner).

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(54)【発明の名称】画像形成方法

(57)【要約】

【目的】 キャリア抵抗を低下させ現像性を改善し、低電位現像を可能とし、合わせて耐久性能も向上させる。 【構成】 離型剤量の変化Xと外添剤量の変化Yが $0.9 \le X \le 1.0$, $0.8 \le Y \le 1.0$ の条件式を満たすトナーと、表面フッ素量が $6 \sim 25$ 個数%である樹脂コーティングキャリアとからなることを特徴とする現像剤。 X = (リサイクルトナーの離型剤に起因する融解熱)/(ニュートナーの離型剤に起因する融解熱) Y = (リサイクルトナーの表面外添剤量)/(ニュートナーの表面外添剤量)

いる。

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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 トナーリサイクルシステムを採用した画像形成方法において、トナーの離型剤量の変化 X を、 X = (リサイクルトナーの離型剤に起因する融解熱) / (ニュートナーの離型剤に起因する融解熱) とするとき、 0.9≦ X ≦1.0を満たし、かつトナーの外添剤量の変化 Y た

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Y=(リサイクルトナーの表面外添剤型)/(ニュートナーの表面外添剤型)とするとき、0.8≤Y≤1.0を満たすトナーと、樹脂コーティングキャリアの表面フッ素型が6~25個数%であるキャリアからなる現像剤を用いることを特徴とする画像形成方法。

【請求項2】 請求項1記載の画像形成方法において、トナー組成物の混練温度が離型剤の融点(Tm)以下で、Tm-40℃を下回らない温度であり、トナーと外添剤の混合工程に高速撹拌型混合機を用いその充填率を75~90%に制御することを特徴とする画像形成方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、静電潜像をトナーにより現像し画像を形成する画像形成方法に関し、特にトナーのリサイクルシステムを採用した画像形成方法に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】例えば電子写真法においては、通常、光 導電性感光体よりなる静電潜像担持体に帯電、解光によ り静電潜像を形成し、次いでこの静電潜像をバインダー 樹脂中に着色剤等を含有させて微粒子状に形成してなる トナーによって現像し、得られたトナー像を転写紙等の 支持体に転写し定着して可視画像を形成する。一方、転 写後の感光体は除電され、次いで転写されずに感光体上 に残留したトナーがクリーニングされた上、次の画像形 成に供される。この様に可視画像を得るためにはトナー 像を定着する事が必要であり、従来においては熱効率が 高く、高速定着が可能な熱ロール定着方式が広く採用さ れている。

【0003】一方、トナーを経済的に使用する観点から、クリーニングにより回収したトナー(以下このトナーをリサイクルトナーと称する)を再び現像器に戻してこれを再利用する、所謂トナーのリサイクルシステムを採用した画像形成方法が注目を浴びている。このリサイクルシステムに適用されるトナーにおいては以下の特性が要求される。

【0004】クリーニング工程及び現像器迄のトナー搬送工程(リサイクル工程)において受けるせん断力によりトナーが変形、破砕を生じないこと。

【0005】トナーの表面状態の変化が小さいこと。

【0006】そこでこのような要節に対応すべく、例えば(1)特開平2-110572号公報にはトナーリサイクルシステムを採用した画像形成方法において金属架橋スチレ

ン-アクリル共重合体樹脂と、ポリオレフィンと、脂肪酸アミドまたは脂肪酸エステルと、疎水性無機微粒子を含有し、ポリオレフィン5重畳部以上、脂肪酸アミド・エステル含有割合Aとポリオレフィン含有割合Bの比A/Bが1以上の現像剤を用いる方法が提案されている。【0007】外添剤の混合方法としては種々のものが提案されているが例えば(2)特開平2-157027号公報には雰囲気温度10~90℃の条件下で回転片と固定片から形成される0.5~30mmの最短間隙を有する衝撃部、2種の回転片から形成される0.5~30mmの最短間隙を有する衝撃部を通過させ着色粒子と添加剤を混合する方法が提案されている。また(3)特開平4-328579号公報にはトナー温度を40℃以下、混合機のせん断周速20m/sec以上で

【0008】他方キャリア粒子としてはキャリア被殺材料としてフッ素樹脂を使用することは公知であり、またキャリア表面の特定原子の存在量を規定した磁性体分散型キャリアを用いるものが提案されている。例えば

ナー粒子と表面処理剤を混合する製造方法が提案されて

(4)特公平2-17109号公報にはキャリア芯材表面に一般式(トリフルオロメチルメタアクリレート)の単量体を50wt%以上含有する単量体混合物から得た分子畳・極限粘度0.01~2.0の重合体または該重合体を含む組成物を被覆するキャリアが提案されている。

【0009】また(5)特開平3-1164号公報にはキャリア表面の全原子中のフッ素原子の存在量を6~30atomic%としたキャリアを用いる方法が提案されている。

[0010]

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・【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら前記

(1) の公報記載の技術では離型剤種の選定により無機 微粒子がトナーに強固に付着し押し込まれにくくなるも のの、トナー帯電量の低下を防止するには至らず、キャ リアとしてフッ素元素の置換率の高いフッ素樹脂を使用 せねばならず、キャリア粒子の表面抵抗率が高くなり現 像性が悪化してしまうのを回避できなかった。

【0011】前記(2)及び(3)の公報記載技術をトナーリサイクルシステムに適用するとトナー上の添加剤、表面処理剤のトナー表面からの離脱が発生、帯電風低下を招来し長期の使用に耐えない。

【0012】前記(4)の公報記載技術をトナーリサイクルシステムに適用するためには該特許記載のキャリア技術のみではトナー表面上の離型剤が変化、外添剤の変化を制御できず現像剤としての使用に耐えない。

【0013】また(5)の公報記載技術ではトナーリサイクルシステムに対して磁性体分散型キャリアを適用しようとすると、リサイクルトナーがキャリアに付着しやすく現像剤としての耐久性能が短かくなってしまう欠点があった。

【0014】本発明者等は鋭意検討の結果、トナーリサイクルシステムにおいてリサイクルトナー粒子の離型剤

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最と外添剤量の変化を最少範囲に保つことによって、キャリア粒子の表面フッ案量を適正な範囲に限定でき、キャリア表面抵抗率を下げることができ、低電位現像を達成できることを見いだし、本発明を完成したのである。 【0015】本発明は以上の事情に基づいて提案されたものであって、その目的とするところは、トナーリサイクルシステムを採用した画像形成方法において現像性に優れ、低電位現像に優れ、かつ高耐久性能を有する現像剤を提供することにある。

【0016】当該トナーはトナー表面の離型剤成分、外添剤(流動性向上剤)成分の変化を最小限にとどめた為、クリーニングプロセス、リサイクルプロセス等による大きなストレスを受けた場合にも、離型剤のトナー表面からの離脱が生せず定着ローラー汚れの悪化が無く、外添剤のトナー中への埋没及びトナー表面からの脱離が生ぜず、常にトナー自体の帯電性能が変化しない。その為キャリア表面被授材料の帯電付与能力を下げフッ素樹脂量を低減でき、その結果キャリア抵抗値を下げる事が可能になり合わせて低電位での現像が可能になる。

[0017]

【課題を解決するための手段】前記の目的は下記手段に よって達成される。

 $Y = (リサイクルトナーの表面外添剤鼠) / (ニュートナーの表面外添剤鼠) とするとき、<math>0.8 \le Y \le 1.0$ を満たすトナーと、樹脂コーティングキャリアの表面フッ素 品が $6 \sim 25$ 個数% であるキャリアからなる現像剤を用いることを特徴とする画像形成方法。

【0019】(2)(1)記載の画像形成方法において、トナー組成物の混練温度が離型剤の融点(Tm)以下で、Tm-40℃を下回らない温度であり、トナーと外添剤の混合工程に高速撹拌型混合機を用いその充填率を75~90%に制御することを特徴とする画像形成方法。

【0020】本発明の画像形成方法は結着樹脂、着色剤、雕型剤及び必要に応じてその他の添加剤を含有するトナー粒子において、リサイクルトナーの離型剤含有型と外添剤型、及びキャリア表面のフッ素元素型における適正な存在型の範囲を下記測定法に基づき、各単位系であるJ/g及び個数%で規定した。

【0021】本発明において、融解熱は示差走査熱量測定法(DSC)に従って、例えばDSC-7(パーキンエルマー社製)により測定されたものであり、具体的には試料5mgを一定の昇温速度(10℃/min.)で加熱し、ベースラインと吸熱ピークで囲まれる面積から算出した。

【0022】本発明においてトナー粒子表面上の外添剤存在量、キャリア表面上のフッ素存在量はESCA1000(島津製作所製)を用いて測定されたものであり、X線(MgKα)出力10.0kV、20.0mAでトナー及びキャリアをサンプル皿(深さ2mm直径1cm)に擦り切りで入れ、表面成分の定量計算には炭素:C1s、酸素:01s、窒素:N1s、フッ素:F1s、珪素:Si2p、チタン:Ti2p3/2、アルミニウム:A12p、ジルコニウム:2r3d3/2、3d5/2等のピークを使用し、ピーク面からそれぞれの量を求めた。これらのピーク面積を使用し、各元素による強度補正として感度係数による補正を行い強度比とした。

[0023]

【作用】以下、本発明を詳細に説明する。

【0024】本発明の画像形成方法では離型剤、外添剤がトナー表面で殆ど変化を受けないために、トナーリサイクルシステムを有する現像器内においてもトナー表面から離型剤、外添剤が脱落する事なく、繰り返しの使用に耐え得る。トナー離型剤団の変化X(但しX=(リサイクルトナーの離型剤に起因する融解熱)/(ニュートナーの離型剤に起因する融解熱)とする)が0.9未満の場合、トナー表面の離型剤量が減少し定着性能が悪化し、長期の使用に耐えない。一方、トナー外添剤量の変化Y(但しY=(リサイクルトナーの表面外添剤量)/(ニュートナーの表面外添剤量)とする)が0.8未満の場合、帯電量低下が発生しやはり長期に渡る使用に耐えない。

【0025】本発明に用いる画像形成方法としてはトナーリサイクルシステムを採用して画像を形成する。即ち、転写されずに感光体上に残留したトナーをクリーニング部で回収し、この回収したトナーを再び現像器、及びまたはトナー補給ポックスに戻し再使用するシステムを指す。

【0026】第1図は、本発明の画像形成方法に適用できる画像形成方法の一例を示す。7は感光体であり、この感光体7は回転ドラム状の形態を有しており、有機光導電体、金属光導電体、所間Se-Te、As,Se,が好ましく、特に易廃棄性の観点から有機感光体が好ましい。感光体の周囲にはその回転方向上流側から下流側に向かって、順に帯電器1、露光光学系2、現像器3、転写器5、分離器6、クリーニング器8が配置されている。10は定着器である。

【0027】この画像形成装置においては、帯電器1により感光体7の表面が一様な電位に帯電され、次いで露光光学系2により像様露光されて感光体7の表面に静電潜像が形成される。そして、現像器3内に収容された後述する特定のトナー及びキャリアからなる現像剤により、上記の静電潜像が現像されてトナー像が形成される。このトナー像は転写器5により記録材Pに静電転写され、熱ローラー定 登10により加熱定 着されて定 着画像が形成される。一方、転写器5を通過した感光体7は

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クリーニング器 8 により残留トナーがクリーニングされて次の画像の形成に供される。さらにクリーニング器に回収されたトナーは後述するトナーリサイクルシステムにより再び現像器 3 及びまたはトナー補給ポックスIIに戻されて再使用に供される。

【0028】トナーリサイクルシステムの具体例を図2及び3に示す。この例において12は現像器、13は現像スリーブ、14は感光体、15はクリーニング器、16はトナー搬送スクリュー1、17はトナー搬送スクリュー2、18はトナー搬送スクリュー3、20はトナー補給ポックスではある。本例の装置はトナー搬送スクリュー1,2、3により順次クリーニング部で回収したトナーを搬送したもので駆ける。とは別体)に供給する様にしたものでかけった。即ち、16のトナー搬送スクリュー1、17のトナー搬送スクリュー2、18のトナー搬送スクリュー3はそれで記入クリュー2、18のトナー搬送スクリュー3は大けに設めた。即ち、16のトナー搬送スクリュー3は大けに設めてスクリュー2、18のトナー搬送スクリュー3は大けに設けたなり、トナーは四転軸に出ってスパの回転に伴ってスクリュー2、18のトナーは一個転に出りにより順次搬送され、分配器19に供給される。

【0029】一方、図3の12~18、20は図2と同様で、本例の装置ではトナー搬送スクリュー1,2,3により順次クリーニング部で回収したトナーを搬送し、トナー補給ボックスに供給するようにしたものである。本例の図2との差異はトナー補給ボックス内で新トナーと回収したリサイクルトナーを予め撹拌混合した後、現像器に供給するところに特徴がある。

【0030】本発明に用いるトナーは上述したトナーリサイクルシステムを具備する画像形成方法において、トナー離型剤量の変化X(X=(リサイクルトナーの離型剤に起因する融解熱)/(ニュートナーの離型剤に起因する融解熱)とする)が $0.9 \le X \le 1.0$ を満たし、かつトナーの表面外添剤量の変化Y(Y=(リサイクルトナーの表面外添剤量)/(ニュートナーの表面外添剤量)とする)が $0.8 \le Y \le 1.0$ を満たす事を必須とする。

【0031】本発明に用いるトナーバインダー樹脂としては特に限定を受けないが、例えばポリエステル樹脂、スチレン-アクリル酸エステル系樹脂、スチレン-メタアクリル酸エステル系樹脂、スチレン-ブタジエン系樹脂、スチレン-アクリロニトリル樹脂、スチレン-アクリル-ポリエステル樹脂、ポリウレタン樹脂、エポキシ樹脂、シリコーン樹脂、ポリウレタン樹脂、エポキシ樹脂、シリコーン樹脂、ポリ塩化ビニル、ポリアミド、ポリビニルブチラール、ロジン、変性ロジン、フェノール樹脂、キシレン樹脂等が挙げられる。

【0032】トナー母体粒子(外添剤は含まない。以下 菊色粒子と称する)中にはパインダー樹脂の他に必要に 応じて着色剤、荷電制御剤、離型剤、磁性体等の成分が 含まれる。添加量は特に限定されないが各々1部から50 部が好ましい。 【0033】 着色剤としては例えばカーボンブラック、ニグロシン染料、アニリンブルー、カルコオイルブルー、クロムイエロー、デュボンオイルレッド、キノリンイエロー、フタロシアニンブルー、マラカイトグリーンオクサレート、ローズベンガル等、及びこれらの混合物を用いることができる。

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【0034】荷電制御剤としてはニグロシン系染料、4級アンモニウム塩化合物、アルキルピリジニウム化合物等を用いることができる。

10 【0035】離型剤としては例えば融点が100℃から140 ℃のものが好ましく、また数平均分子量(該数平均分子 量は高温GPCでのポリスチレン分子量換算値を示す) が1500~5000の低分子量ポリエチレン、低分子量ポリプ ロピレン、低分子量ポリエチレン-ポリプロピレン共重 合体等のポリオレフィンワックス、例えばマイクロワッ クス、フィッシャートロプシュワックス等の高融点パラ フィンワックス、例えば脂肪酸低級アルコールエステ ル、脂肪酸高級アルコールエステル、脂肪酸多価アルコールエステル等のエステル系ワックス、アミド系ワック ス等を用いることができる。

【0036】磁性体としてはフェライト、マグネタイトをはじめとする鉄、コパルト、ニッケル等の強磁性を示す金属もしくは合金またはこれらの元素を含む化合物、あるいは強磁性元素を含まないが適当な熱処理を施す事により強磁性を示す合金、例えばマンガン-銅-アルミニウム、マンガン-銅-錫等のマンガンと銅とを含むホイスラー合金と呼ばれる合金等を挙げる事が出来る。

【0037】更にこれらのトナー組成物を混合し、溶融 混練、粉砕・分級し、トナー流動性を改善する観点から シリカ、酸化チタン等の無機微粒子(トナー外添剤)を 添加し、最終的にトナー粒子を得る。

【0038】本発明者らは鋭意検討の結果、溶融混練工程にてパインダー結着樹脂に練り込まれる離型剤成分は本混練工程の条件を制御する事によりトナー表面から離脱しにくい事を見いだした。即ち、混練条件の因子としては混練機中混練ゾーンの温度、混練ゾーンでの混合強度等が挙げられる。混練温度が離型剤の融点(Tm)に対しTmを超えると、離型剤の溶融粘度が極端に下がりすぎ、その結果離型剤の分散径が小さくなってしまう。一方、Tm−40℃を下回る温度で混練すると離型剤が溶融せずにパインダー樹脂中に均一に練り込まれず、その結果離型剤の分散径が不均一になってしまう。

【0039】外添剤としてはトナーの流動性を改善できるものであれば何れでも良く、親水性シリカ、疎水性シリカ、アルミナ、酸化チタン、チタン酸パリウム、チタン酸マグネシウム、チタン酸カルシウム、チタン酸ストロンチウム、酸化亜鉛、酸化クロム、酸化セリウム、三酸化アンチモン、酸化ジルコニウム等の微粒子を挙げる事ができる。さらには感光体及びキャリア粒子表面を適度に研磨し感光体、現像剤の劣化を生じない効果を有す

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る2次、3次凝集体を形成する外添剤である事が好ましい。当該例としてはアミノ変性シリコーンオイルで処理したシリカ、オルガノシロキサンと3-アミノプロピルトリエトキシシランで処理した疎水性シリカを挙げる事ができる。

【0040】外添剤のトナー表面への分散方法は内部に回転羽根を1種または2種有する高速撹拌型混合機にトナー組成物とトナー外添剤を入れ高速で撹拌する事により、トナー表面に外添剤を付着させるが、本発明者らは鋭意検討の結果、本混合工程において高速撹拌型混合機中での着色剤粒子、外添剤の充填率を75~90%に制御する事により、トナー表面から外添剤が離脱しにくい事を見いだした。ここで充填率とは以下の式で定義される。【0041】充填率=((着色剤粒子+外添剤微粒子)の質量÷着色剤静嵩密度)÷高速撹拌型混合機容量×100

高速撹拌型混合機としてはヘンシェルミキサー (三井三池社製)、LMA5型 (奈良機械社製)、VG25型 (富士産業社製)等の公知の混合機を使用する事ができる。

【0042】キャリアコーティング用樹脂として物理的

結着樹脂;ポリエステル樹脂 着色剤 ;カーボンブラック

以上の材料をヘンシェルミキサーで混合し、 2 軸押出機(エクストルーダ)を用いて混練部温度110℃にて混練、混練物を粗粉砕後、機械式粉砕機にて微粉砕し、風力分級機により分級して体積平均粒径10μmの着色粒子Aを得た。得られた着色粒子A100部に対して表面をオルガノシロキサンと3-アミノプロピルトリエトキシシラ 30ンで処理した疎水性シリカを1.0部加えてヘンシェルミキサーにて充填率85%となるようにして混合処理してトナーAを得た。該トナーAのESCAに依る表面シリカ 量は7.0個数%、融解熱は0.80J/gであった。

【0045】一方、キャリアとして2,2,2-トリフルオロエチルメタクリレートとスチレンの共重合体(共重合比20:80重畳部)からなる樹脂で被殺したキャリアAを用いた。このキャリアのESCAに依る表面分析においてその表面フッ素畳は8個数%であった。

結着樹脂;スチレン-アクリルアイオノマー樹脂

着色剤 ;カーポンプラック

離型剤 ;ポリオレフィンワックス(融点100℃)

 付着力、キャリア表面汚染防止の観点から低表面エネルギーのフッ案系樹脂が広く利用されている。該フッ索樹脂が広く利用されている。該フッタとして具体的には、ポリ四フッ化エチレン、四フッ化エチレン大重合体、ポリ三フッ化ビニリデン、四フッ化エチレン、ポリフッ化ビニリデン、四フッ化エチレン共重合体、側にフッスでは、カーカーの大力では、カーカーの大力である。前記含フッ素樹脂の中でも特に1,1,3-トリヒドロパーフルオローロープロピルアクリレートと1,1-ジヒドロパーフルオローカープロピルアクリレート共重合体、1,1-ジヒドロパーフルオロエチルメタクリレート重合体、2,2,2-トリフルオロエチルメタクリレート重合体、2,2,2-トリフルオロエチルメタクリレート重合体がましい。

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[0043]

【実施例】以下、実施例及び比較例により本発明を更に 説明するが、本発明はこれらの実施例により何等限定さ れるものではない。尚、「部」は重畳部を表す。

20 【0044】 (実施例1)

100部

8部

離型剤 ;低分子量ポリプロピレン(融点140℃) 4部

【0046】このトナーAとキャリアAからなる現像剤をリサイクルトナーがトナー補給ポックスに戻される機構(図3参照)を有するように改造したコニカ(株)社製電子写真複写機U-BIX 3035を用いて実写評価を行った。

【0047】クリーニング器に回収されたリサイクルトナーを一部取り出し、その融解熱と表面シリカ鼠の定盤を行った。その結果、融解熱は0.75J/gでX=0.94となり、表面シリカ鼠は6.2個数%でY=0.88となった。更に実写評価を継続してもこれらの値に大きな変動は無く、カブリの発生、及び定着不良も発生しなかった。得られた画像の濃度は相対濃度で1.3以上をスタートから維持し、30,000コピー後も変化は無かった。

【0048】(実施例2)

一樹脂 100部

10部

(融点100℃) 4部

表面シリカ量は5.0個数%、融解熱は1.05J/gであった。

【0049】一方、キャリアとして2,2,2-トリフルオロエチルメタクリレートとメチルメタクリレートの共重合体(共重合比60:40重畳部)からなる樹脂で被殺したキャリアBを用いた。このキャリアのESCAに依る表面分析においてその表面フッ案畳は20個数%であった。

【0050】このトナーBとキャリアBからなる現像剤

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をクリーニングされたトナーが現像器に直接戻される機構(図2参照)を有するよう改造したコニカ(株)社製電子写真複写機U-BIX X2125を用いて実写評価を行った。

【0051】クリーニング器に回収されたトナーを一部取り出しその融解熱と表面シリカ量の定量を行った。その結果、融解熱は $0.95\,\mathrm{J}/\mathrm{g}$ 、 $\mathrm{X}=0.90$ 、表面シリカ量

は4.7個数%、Y=0.94であった。更に実写評価を継続してもこれらの値に大きな変動は無く、カブリの発生、及び定着不良も発生しなかった。得られた画像の濃度は相対濃度で1.3以上をスタートから維持し、30,000コピー後も変化は無かった。

【0052】 (実施例3)

結着樹脂;スチレン-アクリル-ポリエステルブレンド樹脂 100部 着色剤 ;カーポンプラック 10部 離型剤 ;低分子畳ポリプロピレン(融点130℃) 3部

以上の材料をヘンシェルミキサーで混合し、2軸押出機(エクストルーダ)を用いて混練部温度125℃にて混練し、混練物を粗粉砕後、機械式粉砕機にて微粉砕し、風力分級機により分級して体積平均粒径9μmの着色粒子Cを得た。得られた着色粒子C100部に対して表面をオルガノシロキサンと3-アミノプロピルトリエトキシシランで処理した疎水性シリカを1.2部加えてヘンシェルミキサーにて充填率が88%となるようにして混合処理してトナーCを得た。該トナーCの表面シリカ量は8.5個数%、融解熱は0.75 J/gであった。

【0053】一方、キャリアとして1,1-ジヒドロパーフルオロエチルアクリレートとメチルメタクリレートの共重合体(共重合比50:50)からなる樹脂で被殺したキャリアCを用いた。このキャリアのESCAに依る表面分

析においてその表面フッ素量は17個数%であった。

【0054】このトナーCとキャリアCからなる現像剤をクリーニングされたトナーがトナー補給ポックスに戻される機構を有するコニカ(株)社製電子写真複写機U-BIX1520を用いて実写評価を行った。

【0055】クリーニング器に回収されたリサイクルトナーを一部取り出しその融解熱と表面シリカ鼠の定鼠を行った。その結果、融解熱は0.70 J/g、X=0.93、表面シリカ鼠は7.0個数%、Y=0.82であった。更に実写 評価を継続してもこれらの値に大きな変動は無く、カブリの発生、及び定着不良も発生しなかった。得られた画像の濃度は相対濃度で1.3以上をスタートから維持し、30,000コピー後も変化は無かった。

【0056】(比較例1)

結着樹脂; スチレン-アクリルアイオノマー樹脂 100部 着色剤 ; カーボンブラック 10部

離型剤 ;ポリオレフィンワックス(融点100℃)

以上の材料をヘンシェルミキサーで混合し、2軸押出機(エクストルーダ)を用いて混練部温度150℃にて混練し、混練物を粗粉砕後、機械式粉砕機にて微粉砕し、風力分級機により分級して体積平均粒径10μmの着色粒子Dを得た。得られた着色粒子D100部に対して表面をアミノ変性シリコーンオイルで処理した疎水性シリカを0.8部加えてヘンシェルミキサーにて充填率が78%となるようにして混合処理してトナーDを得た。該トナーDの表面シリカ量は5.0個数%、融解熱は1.25 J/gであった。

【0057】一方、キャリアとして2,2,2-トリフルオロエチルメタクリレートとメチルメタクリレートの共重合体(共重合比60:40重量部)からなる樹脂で被殺したキャリアBを用いた。このキャリアのESCAに依る表面

結瘡樹脂;ポリエステル樹脂

着色剤 ;カーポンプラック

離型剤 ;低分子量ポリプロピレン(融点130℃)

分析においてその表面フッ素量は20個数%であった。

4部

【0058】このトナーDとキャリアBからなる現像剤をクリーニングされたトナーがトナー補給ボックスに戻される機構を有するコニカ(株)社製電子写真複写機U-BIX1520を用いて実写評価を行った。

【0059】クリーニング器に回収されたリサイクルトナーを一部取り出しその融解熱と表面シリカ鼠の定鼠を行った。その結果、融解熱は1.02 J / g、X=0.82、表面シリカ鼠は4.7個数%、Y=0.94であった。定着不良がリサイクルトナー鼠が定常になると考えられる3000コピー以降発生し、得られる画像の濃度は相対濃度で1.1を下回る様になった。

40 【0060】(比較例2)

100部

10部

0℃) 3部

以上の材料をヘンシェルミキサーで混合し、 2 軸押出機 (エクストルーダ) を用いて混練部温度120℃にて混練 し、混練物を粗粉砕後、機械式粉砕機にて微粉砕し、風 カ分級機により分級して体積平均粒径8.5 μ m の着色粒子 Eを得た。得られた着色粒子E100部に対して表面をオ ルガノシロキサンと3-アミノプロピルトリエトキシシラ 50

ンで処理した疎水性シリカを1.0部加えてヘンシェルミキサーにて充填率が60%となるようにして混合処理してトナーEを得た。該トナーEの表面シリカ畳は7.0個数%、融解熱は0.97」/gであった。

【0061】一方、キャリアとしてトリフロロエチレン とスチレンの共重合体(共重合比35:65重畳部)からな

る樹脂で被収したキャリアDを用いた。このキャリアの ESCAに依る表面分析においてその表面フッ素畳は10 個数%であった。

【0062】このトナーEとキャリアDからなる現像剤をクリーニングされたトナーがトナー補給ポックスに戻される機構を有する様改造したコニカ(株)社製電子写真複写機U-BIX 3035を用いて実写評価を行った。

【0063】クリーニング器に回収されたリサイクルト 面シナーを一部取り出しその融解熱と表面シリカ鼠の定鼠を スタ行った。その結果、融解熱は0.90 J/g、X=0.93、表 10 た。面シリカ鼠は3.2個数%、Y=0.46であった。更に実写 評価を継続すると5000コピー以降、トナー帯電鼠の低下 で、が激しくなり、トナー飛散が発生し、複写機内を汚染し 下表

【0064】 (比較例3) 実施例1に記載したトナー粒子Aと2,2,2-トリフルオロエチルメタクリレート重合体樹脂で被覆したキャリアE (ESCAによる表面フッ素

畳は33個数%)からなる現像剤をクリーニングされたトナーがトナー補給ボックスに戻される機構を有するコニカ(株)社製電子写真複写機U−BIX 1520を用いて実写評価を行った。

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【0065】クリーニング器に回収されたリサイクルトナーを一部取り出しその融解熱と表面シリカ畳の定畳を行った。その結果、融解熱は0.73 J/g 、X=0.91、表面シリカ畳は5.8 個数%、Y=0.83 であった。しかし、スタートから現像性が悪く、画像濃度は1.0以下であった

【0066】(比較例4~9)実施例1の条件において、トナー及びキャリアの製造条件をコントロールし、下表のごとき現像剤を作製した。これを用いて実施例1同様の性能評価を行った結果を表1に示す。

[0067]

【表1】

\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \		3.5	表面フッ素量	最高	濃 度
	X	Y	(個数%)	テスト初期	3万コピー後
					100
実施例1	0. 94	0.88	8	1.3 以上	1.3 以上
比較例4	0. 85	0. 90	10	1. 25	1.10
比較例 5	0. 70	0.90	10	1. 25	1. 05
比較例 6	0. 95	0.74	10	1. 30	1. 15
比較例7	0. 95	0. 65	10	1. 25	1. 05
比較例8	0. 94	0.90	4	1.00	1.00以下
比較例9	0. 94	0.88	31	0. 94	0. 90
4					

[0068]

【発明の効果】トナーの離型剤量の変化が小さく、かつ 外添剤の保持性能も良好なことからトナー表面性が保持 され、外添剤とトナーバインダー樹脂のキャリアへの付 着現象が生じにくい。そのためキャリア表面のフッ素樹 脂量を低減でき、キャリア抵抗を低下させ現像性を改 善、低電位現像が可能となり、合わせて耐久性能も向上 する。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明を適用した複写機を説明する図。

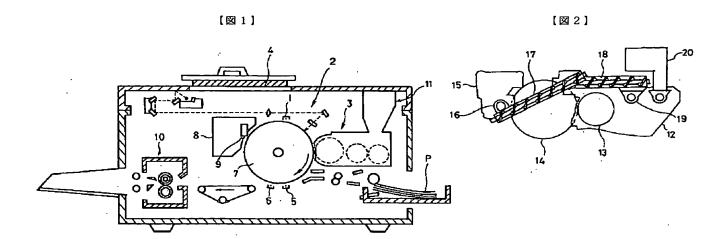
【図2】本発明に用いるトナーリサイクルシステムを説

明する図。

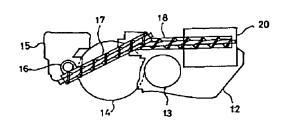
【図3】本発明に用いるトナーリサイクルシステムを説明する図。

【符号の説明】

- 12 現像器
- 14 感光体
- 15 クリーニング器
- 16 トナー搬送スクリュー1
- 17 トナー搬送スクリュー2
- 40 20 トナー補給ポックス







					
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